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APPLICATION NO.	F	ILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/505,281	5,281 02/16/2000		Toshihisa Kuroiwa	105403	5700
25944	7590	03/08/2004		EXAMINER	
OLIFF & E		GE, PLC	HARRIS, TIA M		
P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER -
	- · · · · ·			2615	1
				DATE MAILED: 03/08/2004	7 -

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Office Action Summan	09/505,281	KUROIWA, TOSHIHISA				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Tia M Harris	2615				
The MAILING DATE of this communication Period for Reply	n appears on the cover sheet w	ith the correspondence address				
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RETHE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CF after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period for reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by some Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the rearned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ON. FR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a n. a reply within the statutory minimum of thi eriod will apply and will expire SIX (6) MOI statute, cause the application to become A	reply be timely filed ty (30) days will be considered timely. NTHS from the mailing date of this communication. BANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _						
_	This action is non-final.					
· <u> </u>		ters prosecution as to the merits is				
·	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims						
4) ⊠ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the applica 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are with 5) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) □ Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7) □ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ⊠ Claim(s) 1-18 are subject to restriction and	ndrawn from consideration.					
Application Papers						
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Exar	miner.					
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)	The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).					
_	Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).					
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the	e Examiner. Note the attache	d Office Action or form P1O-152.				
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119	·					
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for form a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority docum 2. Certified copies of the priority docum 3. Copies of the certified copies of the application from the International But * See the attached detailed Office action for a	nents have been received. nents have been received in A priority documents have beer ureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	Application No received in this National Stage				
Attachment(s)						
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) Interview	Summary (PTO-413)				
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948 Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SE Paper No(s)/Mail Date 		s)/Mail Date Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)				

Application/Control Number: 09/505,281

Art Unit: 2615

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - Claims 1-4 and 18, drawn to Interconnections, classified in class 348, subclass 231.99.
 - II. Claims 5 and 6, drawn to Exposure Control, classified in class 348, subclass 362.
 - III. Claims 7-13 and 15-17, drawn to Editing/Recording and Parallel Processing/Imaging, classified in class 348, subclass 221.1.
 - IV. Claim 14, drawn to Image Data Management, classified in class 348, subclass 231.9.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I, II, III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, inventions I, II, III and IV have separate utility such as

Inventions II, III and IV do not require the specifics of the interconnections required by Invention I;

Inventions I, III and IV do not require the specifics of the exposure control required by Invention II;

Inventions I, II and IV do not require the specifics of the editing/recording functionality or the parallel processing/imaging required by Invention III;

Inventions I, II and III do not require the specifics of the image data management that is required by Invention IV. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Application/Control Number: 09/505,281

Art Unit: 2615

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. If the Applicant elects Invention III, the Applicant must select one of the following species:

Species I:

Figures 2 and 4

Species II:

Figure 5

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are considered to be generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Application/Control Number: 09/505,281

Art Unit: 2615

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR

1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Tia M Harris whose telephone number is 703-305-4807. The examiner

can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on 703-308-9644. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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-1 ANDREW CHRISTENSEN SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Page 4

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